

# Nature Connections

In Southwest Missouri

July/August 2012



## Joplin Office in the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

Page 2

## Andy Dalton Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

Page 3

## Springfield Conservation Nature Center

Pages 4 & 5

## Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery & Conservation Center

Page 6

## Southwest Regional Office

Page 7

## Hunter Education

Page 7

## Conservation Area Showcase

Page 8

**T**he Private Land Services Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is relatively new considering that the agency celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. The Division was created in 2000, and from the beginning, they have been providing technical and financial assistance to rural Missouri landowners. Their mission statement does a great job of explaining what the Private Land Services Division strives for: *to help landowners meet their land management objectives in ways that enhance fish, forest, and wildlife conservation.*

The Division's field staff recognize that farmers, large and small, and livestock producers care about conserving and protecting the natural resources on their land, whether it's soil, water, forests, fish, or wildlife. However, they also recognize these same landowners need to make a living off their land. They have groceries to buy, children to educate, and mortgages to pay. That's why MDC works hard to recommend habitat practices that help landowners manage their land more efficiently *and* improve profits.

Conservation practices such as planting native warm season grasses certainly improves habitat for quail and other wildlife, but it also provides excellent summer forage for livestock when fescue and other cool season grasses are less productive. Fencing livestock out of streams and ponds protects fish and other aquatic wildlife, but used in conjunction with an alternative watering source can lead to healthier cattle. Cattle manure in the water is a source of bacteria and germs which

## It's Your Land



Private Lands Services Division

**T**o help landowners meet their land management objectives in ways that enhance fish, forest, and wildlife conservation.

can cause a loss of production and disease. Clean water can increase beef cow and dairy production while increasing your profits. Advice on thinning a small woodlot on the back of their property or finding out where to buy native wildflowers are examples of what type of assistance and information small landowners can expect.

Local Private Land Conservationists (PLC) work with all landowners in a one-on-one setting by meeting with them on their property, walking over the farm, and discussing the landowner's management objectives. Incorporating the objectives of the landowner is key to the success of any practice or management plan. Once the PLC has a good feel for the landowner's interest, they can leave them with a management plan for their farm. The plan will include recommendations and guidelines for installing forest and wildlife habitat practices that will help improve the efficiency of the

farm. Another aspect of the assistance is to identify potential federal, state, and local programs that can provide financial help to install the practices. Follow-up assistance is provided as needed.

So how can a small landowner, farmer, or livestock producer take advantage of this free and voluntary service? Regardless of where land is located, there is a MDC Private Land Conservationist ready to help. You can call your local MDC or Soil and Water Conservation District office to get the name of your local contact. You can also find the contact for your county by going to the MDC website at <[www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)> and selecting your county in the "Who's My Local Contact?" box about halfway down on the right side of the page. It's *your* land, but the Conservation Department is here to work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife.

— Bob Schroepel  
Private Land Services  
Regional Supervisor



201 W. RIVIERA DRIVE, SUITE B  
JOPLIN, MO 64804

The Joplin Conservation Office, located in the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, is your local connection to Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. Stop by and purchase a fishing/hunting license, attend a nature program, go for a hike, enjoy a picnic, or access Shoal Creek. Within the 190 acres of Wildcat Park, you will find a diverse mix of wildlife habitats rich with flora and fauna.

**HOURS:** Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm  
Closed all state holidays  
Audubon Center hours vary

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-44, take exit 6, and turn left on MO-86. Turn right on Riviera Drive to enter Wildcat Park.

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-629-3423 to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/292](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/292)

## JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES FIREFLY FUN

JULY 6 ~ FRIDAY ~ 7-9PM

WALTER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA

*Registration required* (Families) Join us to



learn about the summer night's twinkling lights—fireflies. We'll learn about these fascinating insects and make a craft as well as catch-and-release lightning beetles on the lawn. Bring a friend and a collection jar!

### DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN INTRODUCTION TO RIFLE SHOOTING

JULY 7 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM-1PM

FORT CROWDER CONSERVATION AREA

*Registration required by June 29* (Women and girls ages 14-17 with an adult participant)



This introductory course on rifle shooting will cover safety as well as shooting fundamentals. Hands-on learning will progress from .22 rifles through various calibers commonly used in hunting. Feel free to bring your own rifle and bullets if you wish to practice afterwards. Please dress for the weather and bring a lawn chair, ball cap, and water.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES FAMILY FISHING NIGHT

JULY 27 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30-8PM

WALTER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA

*Registration required* (Families) Gather your



family to discover the fun of catch-and-release fishing! We will review fishing basics then go to the pond for fishing. Participants are welcome to bring their own poles and bait; however, we will have a limited supply of both. Participants 16 and older must have a valid fishing license.

### SHOAL CREEK WATER FESTIVAL

AUGUST 11 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10AM-3PM

WILDCAT GLADES CONSERVATION & AUDUBON CENTER

*No registration required* (All ages) Cool off at the Shoal Creek Water Festival. Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center and area conservation organizations and businesses are partnering with the community to learn about water quality, conservation, and ecology. Visit a variety of learning and interactive water activity stations. Splash in Silver Creek during a naturalist-led creek hike and catch the entertainment that includes the Fishin' Magicians and World Bird Sanctuary!

### EVENING PRAIRIE HIKE

AUGUST 17 ~ FRIDAY ~ 8-9:30PM

BARTON COUNTY PRAIRIE

*Registration required* (All ages) Discover the magic of an evening on a Barton County prairie. We will explore nocturnal animal life, night-blooming flowers, and the endless sky.

### SHOAL CREEK CLEANUP

AUGUST 25 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM-12NOON

GRAND FALLS (Joplin, MO) to

SCHERMERHORN PARK (Galena, KS)

*Registration required* (All ages) We will put the bash on stream trash with a canoeing cleanup. Join various conservation partners including the Southwest Ozark Stream Teams for this Missouri/Kansas partnership to beautify Shoal Creek. A limited number of canoes will be available to adults and teens with canoeing experience. Refreshments will be provided.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES CANOEING BASICS

AUGUST 28 ~ TUESDAY ~ 6-7:30PM

KELLOGG LAKE (Carthage, MO)

*Registration required* (Ages 8 and up) Learn

the basics of canoeing! We will cover the basics to help get you out on the rivers exploring our great water resources. Space is limited, so register early. All children under 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Upon registering, attendees will be given detailed class information.

## ASK THE NATURALIST



### Why do butterflies gather around mud puddles?

Butterflies get most of their nutrition from the nectar of our native flowers. Nectar lacks some important nutrients butterflies need for reproduction; to get those nutrients, butterflies visit puddles.

During the process of sipping moisture from mud puddles, butterflies take in salts and minerals from the soil. This behavior is called *puddling* and is mostly seen in male butterflies. Sometimes the butterflies will even land on people to sip salt from their perspiration. The male will transfer those extra salts and minerals to the female when they mate. This gives their eggs a better chance of surviving and passing on their traits to the next generation.





4897 N. FARM ROAD 61  
ASH GROVE, MO 65604

Facilities include an outdoor education center and archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

### HOURS:

#### September 14 – April 14

Monday & Thursday: 9am – 4:30pm  
Friday – Sunday: 12noon – 4:30pm

#### April 15 – September 13

Monday: 9am – 4:30pm  
Thursday: 9am – 7:30pm  
Friday – Sunday: 12noon – 4:30pm

Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays and all state holidays. Hours are subject to change.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual and group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range fee: \$3 per booth per hour
- Trap/skeet range fee: \$3 per person per round of 25 clay targets
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3 per person per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Group use fee: \$20 per hour plus \$3 per round of 25 clay targets

**DIRECTIONS:** US Highway 160 west of Willard, turn south on Farm Road 61, and go 2.5 miles, facility on the west side of road.

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-742-4361 or email <DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov> with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/288](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/288)

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Independence Day .....July 4

## JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES WILD GAME SAMPLER

JULY 7 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30–11:30AM

*Registration required* (All ages) We are hosting a wild game sampler. You may bring along a dish to share with other participants if you want or just enjoy sampling a variety of wild game. We are always looking for wild game recipes to include in this program so if you have a good one you want to share, please email it to us at <DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov>.



### EXPLORE BOWHUNTING YOUTH ARCHERY CAMP

JULY 9–JULY 13 ~ MONDAY–FRIDAY ~ 9AM–3PM

*Registration required* (Ages 11–15) We are holding a Youth Archery Camp for children who want to learn about bowhunting. In addition to shooting, we will cover many topics including distance estimation, shot placement, use of camouflage, scouting, tree stand safety, and much more. This is not a bowhunter education certification course, but it is designed to educate people about wise use of our resources and is a perfect extension of the Missouri National Archery in the Schools program (Mo NASP) program.

### DISCOVER HUNTING: DOVE HUNT CLINIC

AUGUST 25 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30AM–3PM

*Registration required* (All ages) Join us and learn all about dove hunting in Missouri. We'll discuss the biology and habitat necessary to sustain healthy populations of mourning doves. We will share our knowledge about becoming a better wing shooter as well as coach you while you practice shooting to develop your wing shooting skills.



## TUNE UP NOW FOR MOURNING DOVE SEASON

In 2007 on Missouri's conservation areas, hunters fired 5 to 6 shotshells per mourning dove bagged. It typically takes between 3 and 4 boxes of shotgun shells to harvest a limit of 15 mourning doves. At a conservative estimate of \$5 per box of shells, a limit of mourning doves can get expensive fast. The secret to having better success is to start shooting your shotgun early so that you are proficient before the season begins. Since wing shooting is a skill that requires good eye-hand coordination, you must practice in order to achieve and maintain your level of proficiency. Here are tips that will increase your harvest rate while reducing the wounding loss rate that can occur.

- Pattern test your shotgun, choke, and load combination to ensure you have a pattern density that is rich enough to deliver the lethal strikes necessary for quick, clean kills.
- Learn and use the "swing through" method while hunting so that you don't have to do the math in your head about speed, distance, or angle of the bird.
- Practice mounting the shotgun so that you keep your head erect with both eyes open so that your ability to estimate distance and see movement is not hindered. The shotgun should touch your shoulder and your cheek simultaneously as you begin your gun movement.
- Keep your eye focused on the head of the bird so when you see the proper amount of forward allowance, or lead between the barrel of your shotgun and the bird, you simply "slap" the trigger, firing the shotgun without thinking about it.
- Follow through with your gun swing and be sure to watch where the bird drops and mark that spot.
- If you are hunting with another person or a dog, send them toward the last location you have marked for the downed bird. If unable to find the downed bird, have them come back toward you and then proceed again making small arches back and forth increasing in size to the last known location until the bird is retrieved.
- Don't shoot at another mourning dove until you retrieve the last downed bird because this causes confusion and leads to lost birds. Remember, if you lose a bird it counts toward your daily bag and possession limits.
- Be selective about taking shots. There are lots of mourning doves and you can afford to be selective about taking "high percentage" shots. In other words, if you always break clay targets that are overhead, incoming type-shots, watch for those same things when shooting live birds.
- Always try to take shots where the birds are silhouetted by sky so that you don't have to worry about shooting low. On conservation areas, hunters tend to concentrate around the areas that are being worked heavily by mourning doves and this can create a dangerous situation if someone takes a low shot at a bird.
- Be sure to take a cooler with ice to hold your birds while hunting in hot weather. You have worked hard to harvest your game and you want to maintain the temperature so your meat doesn't spoil.

– Mike Brooks, Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

# Springfield Conservation Nature Center



4601 S. NATURE CENTER WAY  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). Indoors, enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through a variety of natural communities.

## CURRENT HOURS:

**March 1 – October 31**

**Building** Tuesday – Saturday: 8am – 5pm  
Sunday: 12noon – 5pm

**Trails** Sunday – Saturday: 8am – 8pm

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call **417-888-4237** to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/287](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/287)

## JULY EVENTS

Registration begins July 3

*If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.*

### VENOMOUS SNAKES OF MISSOURI

JULY 7 ~ SATURDAY ~ 2-3PM

No registration required (All ages) You've heard the tales about them, now's your chance to learn the truth. We'll explore the myths and realities of Missouri's misunderstood pit vipers.

### VENOMOUS SNAKES ON DISPLAY

JULY 7 ~ SATURDAY ~ 3-4PM

No registration required (All ages) Come see live specimens of Missouri's venomous snakes on display courtesy of Finley Valley Serpenterium. Stop by anytime.

### PRIMITIVE SKILLS SERIES MAKING CORDAGE

JULY 8 ~ SUNDAY ~ 1-3PM

No registration required (All ages) Volunteer Naturalist and primitive skills specialist Don Brink demonstrates how to weave plant fibers into cordage. Try your hand at this age-old skill and learn about the plants primitive man used to make cordage. Stop by anytime.

### SHOW ME MISSOURI WITH JUDY YOUNG

JULY 12 ~ THURSDAY ~ 10-11AM

Registration required (Best for ages 3-9 with adult) Join award-winning author Judy Young on an interactive adventure through the Show Me State! You'll hear a Missouri rap, help solve riddles about Missouri state animals, and find hidden pictures. Enjoy some of the original illustrations and hear Judy read from her books about the Show Me State! Judy Young is the author of a dozen children's books, including four about Missouri: *S is for Show Me—A Missouri Alphabet*, *Show Me the Number—A Missouri Number Book*, *The Missouri Reader*, and her newest book, *Little Missouri*, a board book for the youngest Missourians. Autographed books will be available for purchase following the program.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES CATFISHING FUN

JULY 12 ~ THURSDAY ~ 7-9PM

Registration required (Ages 6 and up with an adult mentor) Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) to meet for an evening of fishing for catfish at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area fishing pond. See what it takes to catch "Ol' Whiskers." You may bring your own fishing equipment or use ours; we'll supply the bait. Participants 16 years of age or older must have a valid fishing permit.



### HIKING CLUB

JULY 14 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30AM-1PM

Registration required (Ages 18 and up) Hike at Ritter Spring Park with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam on this three-mile trek. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring water and snacks and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is easy to moderate in difficulty.

### CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB: FLOAT TRIP

JULY 17 ~ TUESDAY ~ 9:30AM-4PM

JULY 18 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 9:30AM-4PM

Registration required (Ages 12-17) Come along as we float and explore one of the many streams in the Ozarks. Drinks, lunch, and transportation will be provided. *This Float Trip is offered twice this month, but you may register for only one trip.*

### CONSERVATION KIDS' CLUB: CAVE TOUR

JULY 17 ~ TUESDAY ~ 6-7:30, 7-8:30, 8-9:30PM

Registration required (Ages 7-12 only) Summer is hot and caves are cool! That's why we're going underground during this special time and date of the Conservation Kids' Club. Meet at Doling Park to take a guided tour of Giboney Cave (call for directions). You'll learn about cave formations, wildlife, caving ethics, and more. A shaded pavilion will be available for adults to wait. A waiver for each participant must be signed in advance by the parent/guardian. Bring two flashlights and shoes that can get wet and muddy.

### TREE PEST CLINIC

JULY 19 ~ THURSDAY ~ 9AM-1PM

No registration required (All ages) Do your trees have disease or insect problems? Bring infected twigs (at least 12" long), branches, or leaves to Urban Foresters for identification and a solution to your tree problems. Stop by anytime.

### BABES IN THE WOODS: SPIDERS

JULY 20 ~ FRIDAY ~ 10-11AM

JULY 21 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10-11AM

Registration required (Ages 0-2) Grab your stroller and join the fun! You and your favorite Little Person (0-2 years old) will be introduced to the outdoors and to the fascinating world of spiders.

### COMPOSTING WITH WORMS

JULY 24 ~ TUESDAY ~ 7-8PM

Registration required (Ages 6 and up) It's easy to recycle your food waste into a rich compost to use for your house plants or garden, especially when worms do the work! Join Volunteer Naturalist Jackie Creson and learn about the benefits and what it takes to get started.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES BEGINNING ARCHERY

JULY 25 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 6:30-8:30PM

Registration required (Ages 10 and up with an adult mentor) Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) and discover why archery is a great sport for the whole family. You don't have to be a hunter to become a skilled archer. Learn a new skill and spend time practicing archery at the nature center. All equipment will be provided.



### DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN TROUT FISHING

JULY 28 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM-2PM

Registration required (Women and girls ages 12-17 with an adult participant) Ladies, whether you've fished your whole life or you're new to the sport, all you need is an interest to participate. Roaring River State Park is our destination and catching, cleaning, and cooking trout is our goal. Come ready to learn how to cast your line, cook your catch, and everything in between. Spin-cast equipment and basic instruction will be provided. We will meet at Roaring River Hatchery at 9am. Participants 16 years of age or older must have a valid fishing permit.



## LITTLE ACORNS

Registration required (Ages 3-6) Programs are 45 minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month.

### BEE BUSTLE

JULY 6 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

JULY 7 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM

What are those bees up to as they bustle about all day? Buzz on in and learn about the "buzzy" daily lives of bees inside and outside the hive.

### ROADRUNNERS . . . BEEP, BEEP!

JULY 20 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

JULY 21 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM

Greater roadrunners are more than just a cartoon. So run on in and learn about this really cool bird. Beep, Beep!

### NIGHT CHORUS

JULY 26 ~ THURSDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

Come listen to the sounds of a summer night. We'll enjoy night "music" as we discover which animals are the music makers.



# Springfield Conservation Nature Center

## TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

JULY

Missouri Junior Duck Stamp Contest

AUGUST

Moth Madness

Insect Photography by Dr. Chris Barnhart

## AUGUST EVENTS

Registration begins August 1

If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES EXPLORING GALLOWAY CREEK



AUGUST 2 ~ THURSDAY ~ 10AM-12NOON

**Registration begins July 17** (Ages 7 and up with an adult mentor) Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) and take a naturalist-guided, aquatic journey into Galloway Creek to see what lives beneath the surface. We will look for fish, crawdads, snails, and insect nymphs. Come find out how the invertebrates we find help determine whether the stream is clean or polluted. Dress to get wet and meet at the nature center where we will walk to the creek.

### CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB: SNORKELING

AUGUST 8 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 9AM-4:30PM

AUGUST 9 ~ THURSDAY ~ 9AM-4:30PM

**Registration required** (Ages 12-17) Come beat the heat and experience a fish-eye view of an Ozarks creek. No prior snorkeling experience is necessary. Transportation and lunch will be provided. You may bring your own mask and snorkel or use ours. *Snorkeling is offered twice this month, but you may register for only one trip.*

### STORY TIME WITH MS. LADYBUG

AUGUST 8 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11-11:30AM

**No registration required** (Ages 2-6) Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2-6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES BEGINNER ORIENTEERING



AUGUST 10 ~ FRIDAY ~ 9-11:30AM

**Registration required** (Ages 8 and up with an adult mentor) Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) and learn the basics of using a compass and topographic maps during the indoor portion of this program and then test your newfound skills with an outdoor exercise at Living Memorial Park.



### CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB INSECT COLLECTING

AUGUST 16 ~ THURSDAY ~ 4-9PM

**Registration required** (Ages 12-17) Bugs, bugs, bugs! Come join the fun as we go insect hunting. Insects will be collected and identified. Meet at the nature center where dinner and drinks will be provided.

### BABES IN THE WOODS: BUGS

AUGUST 17 ~ FRIDAY ~ 10-11AM

AUGUST 18 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10-11AM

**Registration required** (Ages 0-2) Grab your stroller and join the fun! You and your favorite Little Person (0-2 years old) will be introduced to the outdoors and the fascinating bugs of summer.

### INSECT-O-RAMA

AUGUST 17 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30-9:30PM

**No registration required** (All ages) Our annual celebration of insects and the important role they play in nature returns! Insects—they fascinate us, they bug us, they surround us, and they bite us, but what would a summer evening be like without them? Join insect specialists and enthusiasts for an evening devoted to discovering insects. Grab your entire family and participate in some creepy-crawly fun for all ages.



The Conservation Kids' Club will not be meeting in August. Bring the entire family to participate in *Insect-O-Rama*.

### SUMMER HUMMERS

AUGUST 19 ~ SUNDAY ~ 5-6:30PM

**Registration required** (All ages) Both adult hummingbirds and their young are visiting feeders prior to fall migration. Join hummingbird bander Sarah Driver as she shares her knowledge about Missouri's smallest bird and attempts to capture and band some.

### HIKING CLUB

AUGUST 25 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM-5PM

**Registration required** (Ages 18 and up) Cool off halfway through this hike by wading through Long Creek with Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik at Hercules Glade Wilderness. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes (bring a pair of water shoes for the creek). Hike is approximately four miles including a mile in the creek and of moderate difficulty (hiking sticks recommended).

### THE ART OF WOODCARVING

AUGUST 25 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10-11AM

**Registration required** (Ages 12 and up) Try your hand at woodcarving with members of the Southern Missouri Woodcarving Artists as they teach carving techniques and show how to transform wood into works of art.

### WOODCARVING DEMONSTRATION

AUGUST 25 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10AM-4PM

**No registration required** (All ages) Visit with members of the Southern Missouri Woodcarving Artists as they share information with the "wood-be" carver, demonstrate carving techniques, show works in progress, and sell some of their art pieces. Stop by anytime.

### MONARCHS RULE!

AUGUST 26 ~ SUNDAY ~ 1-4PM

**Registration required** (Ages 5 and up) Every fall millions of monarch butterflies wing over the Ozarks to their winter home in Mexico. Join Volunteer Naturalists Bob and Ruby Ball and Dana Tideman for an indoor/outdoor adventure to explore the fascinating behavior and life cycle of these beautiful travelers.

### NOCTURNAL ANIMALS PUPPET SHOW

AUGUST 31 ~ FRIDAY ~ 4-4:45 OR 6:30-7:15PM

**Registration required** (All ages) Hoots, squeaks, howls, and chirps make up the music of the night. In the darkness, these strange animal noises can sound scary. Wear your pajamas (if you want) and join us as we shed some light on these nighttime noisemakers to learn a little about what goes on outdoors when the sun goes down.

## LITTLE ACORNS

**Registration required** (Ages 3-6) Programs are 45 minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month.

### DAZZLING DRAGONFLIES

AUGUST 2 ~ THURSDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

AUGUST 4 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM

Fly on in to learn about a really cool insect and be dazzled by dragonflies. **Registration begins July 17.**

### GOING BATTY

AUGUST 11 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM

AUGUST 24 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

Bats are one of the most misunderstood animals in nature. Go batty with us as we learn the truth about bats, how they survive at night, and why they are so important.

### OTTER CHAOS

AUGUST 15 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

Join us as we take a peek into the very busy lives of river otters. We'll learn about what they eat and where they live.



483 HATCHERY RD.  
BRANSON, MO 65616

The Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center is located on 221 acres in Branson off Highway 165 next to Table Rock Dam. Outdoors, visitors will experience an active fish hatchery with 700,000 rainbow and brown trout in 30 pools with opportunities to feed the fish. Indoors, enjoy a 3,500 gallon aquarium and hands-on nature exhibits and purchase hunting and fishing permits. The area also features four hiking trails, a picnic area, a boat ramp, and access to Lake Taneycomo.

#### FACILITY HOURS:

##### Memorial Day – Labor Day

Sunday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

##### Remainder of year

Sunday – Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

#### AREA AND TRAIL HOURS:

4am – 10pm

The area is open to fishing 24 hours daily, but special permits and regulations do apply. Check the current fishing regulations or call for details.

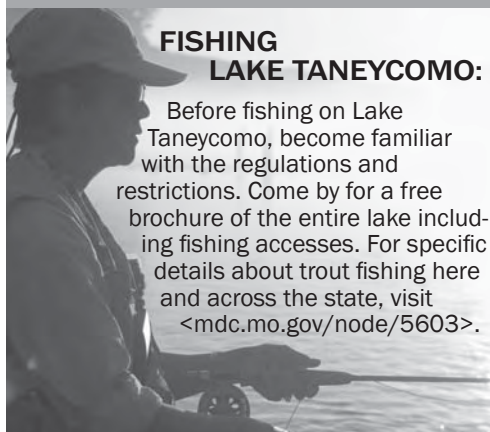
#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-334-4865, Ext. 0, to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/290](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/290)

#### FISHING LAKE TANEYCOMO:

Before fishing on Lake Taneycomo, become familiar with the regulations and restrictions. Come by for a free brochure of the entire lake including fishing accesses. For specific details about trout fishing here and across the state, visit [mdc.mo.gov/node/5603](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/5603).



## JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

### ENLIGHTENING YOU ON LIGHTNING BUGS

JULY 19 ~ THURSDAY ~ 7:30–9PM

Registration required (All ages) What are



those tiny flashlights in the air; flitting here and there? What makes fireflies

light up? Why do they flash anyway? Are they really flies? Where do they live? Have you run around trying to catch one? Did you see it flash up close? These are some of the most fascinating insects to both kids and adults. Answers to these questions will even increase your admiration of these little wonders. Come join us as we discuss fireflies/lightning bugs and bioluminescence, catch some for an up-close look, and play like fireflies to meet their lifelong goal.

### OUTDOOR OLYMPICS

AUGUST 3 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30–8PM

Registration required (All ages) To commemorate the 2012 Olympics, we will have a variety of nature-related events to test your outdoor skills. The events will include catching “backyard bass,” wooden frog/turtle races, habitat relays, and dung beetle races. There will be prizes at each event and all participants will receive awards as well. So come test your outdoor skills and see how to become a Nature Olympian.

### REPTILES–ALIVE!

AUGUST 11 ~ SATURDAY ~ 2–3:30PM

Registration required (All ages) Just how many snakes are venomous? How do you tell a snapping turtle from other turtles? Why are those little blue-tailed lizards called skinks? Here is your chance to not only learn, but get up close and personal with a variety of live snakes, lizards, and turtles that call the Ozarks home. This program will satisfy portions of several scout badges.

## Did you know?

### Missouri's Animal Olympians

For humans the Olympics take place every four years, but many of the animals in Missouri do Olympian feats every day. Here are a few examples of how some of these animals compare to the best athletes in the world.

**Fastest Flying Animal.** At a top speed of 261 miles per hour (mph) the peregrine falcon is the all-time champion speed flyer. Other honorable mention fast flyers are the common swift at 154 mph, ruby-throated hummingbird at 50 mph, and the dragonfly at 35 mph.

**Fastest Land Animal.** The coyote is the land speed champion at 40–43 mph. Other honorable mention fast land animals include the white-tailed deer at 35–40 mph, red fox at 30 mph, and then humans at 28 mph.

**Longest Jumper.** While the standing broad jump is no longer an Olympic event, the distance an animal jumps in comparison to its body is a good way to make comparisons among the animal world. The best long jumper in our area is the flea. The flea can cover a distance of about 200 times the length of its body from a standing position. Another remarkable jumper is the American bullfrog which can jump 10 times the length of its body (a distance of 7 feet) from a sitting position. Finally, the world record for humans in the standing broad jump is only twice our body length or 11.4 feet.

**Best Weightlifter.** Like jumping comparisons, we can compare weight lifted to the body weight of the animal itself. The best weightlifting champion in our state is the rhinoceros beetle. This robust beetle can lift the equivalent of 850 times its own body weight on its back. The next honorable mention is the ant that is capable of lifting 50 times its own body weight. The world record lift for a human is 597.4 pounds (current men's clean and jerk record) or about 2.5 times our body weight.

**Long Distance Traveler.** The animal that makes the longest journey to spend time in Missouri is the bird known as the bobolink. Annually, it makes a 6,000-mile journey (12,000-mile round trip) from northern Argentina to Missouri. Other honorable mentions are the cerulean warbler, scarlet tanager, and American redstart that winter in the northern half of South America and nest here in Missouri.

Surprisingly, we are often amazed that the animals in our midst do incredible feats every day in order to survive the elements, escape predators, breed, find food, or build a home. So as we admire the power, strength, speed, and endurance of our fellow humans during the 2012 Olympics, try and find out how animals compare to these true Olympians.

– John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager



# Southwest Regional Office



2630 N. MAYFAIR AVE  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803

The Southwest Regional Office is conveniently located just west of the intersection of US-65 and Kearney in Springfield. The public may obtain information on land management, nuisance wildlife, educational opportunities, river and pond management, and more, as well as purchase hunting and fishing permits and obtain area brochures for Conservation Department areas.

**PHONE:** 417-895-6880

**HOURS:** Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm  
Closed all state holidays

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/257](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/257)

## See You At The Fair

Conservation and history will be combined at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Fair Building during this year's Ozark Empire Fair from Friday, July 27, to Saturday, August 4.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agency will be one of the themes at this year's Conservation Building. Details on some exhibits were still being worked out at press time, but it is for certain that the *Showboat* vehicle will make another appearance at this year's fair. The *Showboat*, which is a 1946 Chevrolet paneled truck, was used by the Department from the late 1930s to the early 1950s to show fire prevention films and other conservation-oriented movies. It was one of the first public relation efforts of the Department of Conservation and, at the time, it was greatly needed.

When the Missouri Department of Conservation formed in 1937, burning tracts of forest in the rural Ozarks was a land management practice that dated back to the earliest settlers. These fires damaged wildlife habitats and hurt the overall health of the forests. A need to end this ill-advised tradition created one of the agency's early public information efforts—the Forestry Division's *Showboat*. This vehicle, which was equipped with a portable generator, went to rural schools throughout the Ozarks to educate the public and students about fire prevention. The *Showboat*'s best known operator was Herschel "Woody" Bledsoe. Famous for the fire-prevention songs he performed in conjunction with the movie showings, Bledsoe became known as "Woody, the Singing Forester" and went on to host a Department of Conservation radio show heard statewide.

In the aquariums inside the Department of Conservation building will be the usual mix of sportfish species that can be found in area ponds, streams, and lakes. Dickerson Park Zoo will provide a mix of snake species for the reptile exhibit. There will be an assortment of Department of Conservation literature about a variety of topics and, of course, Department of Conservation staff will be on hand to visit with you about your conservation-related experiences and questions. So be sure to come by and see us during the Ozark Empire Fair.

—Francis Skalicky, Metro Media Specialist



# Hunter Education



Register online for all Hunter Education courses at  
<[mdc.mo.gov/node/3477](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3477)>.

A complete listing of courses is also included on this website.

These free 10-hour courses are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. Students ages 11 and up must pass a test at the end of the course to be certified.

Students under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult and show proof of age.

If you have any previous Missouri hunting or fishing permits or a Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, bring them to class.

Location	Date	Day/Time
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	July 13 & 14	Friday, 6–9pm Saturday, 8am–5pm
For questions, call 417-888-4237		
Andy Dalton Shooting Range	August 17 & 18	Friday, 6–10pm Saturday, 8am–6pm
For questions, call 417-742-4361		
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	August 24 & 25	Friday, 6–9pm Saturday, 8am–5pm
For questions, call 417-888-4237		

### Bowhunter Education Class

Andy Dalton Shooting Range August 11 Saturday, 8am–4:30pm  
For questions, call 417-742-4361

## IT'S FROGGIN' SEASON

### Bullfrogs & Green Frogs

**Season:** June 30 at sunset to October 31

**Daily Limit:** 8 (Only the daily limit may be possessed on waters and banks of waters being hunted)

**Possession Bag Limit:** 16



*Check the hunting and fishing regulations for methods and permits required.*

20% Off

## Cooking Wild in Missouri



Whether you hunt, fish, or forage, Bernadette Dryden's collection of recipes offers imaginative, fresh ideas for turning your harvest into a mouth-watering feast. With an emphasis on local, seasonal ingredients and a scope encompassing a variety of cultures and cuisines, *Cooking Wild in Missouri* is sure to earn a trusted spot in your kitchen.

Available at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and Southwest Regional Office for \$12.

Missouri Department of Conservation

## Follow, Friend, and Watch



[twitter.com/mdc\\_online](https://twitter.com/mdc_online)



[facebook.com/MDCOnline](https://facebook.com/MDCOnline)



[youtube.com/user/moconservation](https://youtube.com/user/moconservation)



## Nature Connections Newsletter

To begin receiving the newsletter by mail, call any of the offices listed in the newsletter and leave your name and address.

To begin receiving the newsletter electronically by e-mail, go to [mdc.mo.gov/node/257](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/257), click the "Subscribe by Email" box on the right-hand side of the page, and scroll down to *Nature Connections*.

## Insect-O-Rama

Friday, August 17

6:30-9:30pm

Spend a summer evening exploring the world of insects at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center



## Conservation Area Showcase:

## RUTH AND PAUL HENNING CONSERVATION AREA

### LOCATION

Steep hills covered in oak-hickory forest constitute much of the 1,534-acre Henning Conservation Area (CA), which lies in the White River hills just west of Branson along Highway 76 in Taney County. The forest is broken by a series of limestone and dolomite glades that compose the White River Balds Natural Area. The natural area is home to the uncommon smoke tree and Ashe juniper, as well as beautiful glade wildflowers, reptiles, tarantulas, scorpions, painted buntings, and roadrunners.

### HISTORY

The Henning CA has a colorful history. The glades or "balds" played an important role in the history and folklore of the region. According to legend, the balds became gathering spots for local vigilantes after the Civil War. The "baldknobbers," as they were called, would meet on the glades to plan their escapades. In 1907 Harold Bell Wright published the book *The Shepherd of the Hills* which was based on the people and surrounding White River area. While the book is fiction, the locations including Dewey Bald and the "trail that is nobody knows how old" still exist on the area today. The book became very popular and led to the widespread interest in the culture of the early 1900s Branson area.

The most famous landowners to own this property, and for whom the area is named, were Ruth and Paul Henning. Originally from Missouri, Paul Henning became a Hollywood producer and created the TV classics, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Green Acres*, and *Petticoat Junction*. While it may have been tempting for the Hennings to have transformed this rugged landscape into a luxury vacation hideaway, they both saw this area as a true living memorial to the heritage of the area. In 1981 the Missouri Department of Conservation purchased this area from the Hennings. Later Ruth and Paul Henning donated a significant portion of the sale proceeds back to the Department. It was their wish to keep this beautiful landscape for all to enjoy.

### FISHING and HUNTING

Fishing is limited to a small portion of Roark Creek on the northeast portion of the Henning CA. Fishing is open under statewide regulations. Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area is a wildlife refuge. No hunting or trapping is allowed.

### HIKING

The Henning CA is probably best known for its hiking and nature study opportunities. There are four hiking trails which vary in length from 0.5 to 3.4 miles. These trails allow visitors to bird watch and enjoy outdoor photography and nature study in forests, glades, and riparian habitats. The only paved trail is the 0.5-mile Dewey Bald Trail allows hikers to not only see the top of the historic Dewey Bald, but also to climb a 40-foot tower. The Glade Trail and Streamside Trail which allows visitors to enjoy portions of the White River Balds Natural Area within the Henning CA. By far the most popular trail is the Homesteaders Trail. This 3.4-mile trail features an interpretive brochure that allows you to see remnant structures of past landowners. Old wells and foundations of early 1900s homesteaders are featured along this trail. The trail head begins at the north entrance to the Henning CA, but can also be accessed from Highway 76 via Shane's Shortcut which connects the Streamside Trail to the Homesteaders Trail. All trails feature the opportunity to see spectacular waterfalls within a day or two after a significant rainfall. Hikers are encouraged to take lots of photographs but not to collect rocks, plants, or animals. Collecting of wild edibles, nuts, and mushrooms for personal consumption is allowed.

Thanks to the efforts of past landowners in their wise use of this amazing area, we all have numerous hiking and educational opportunities in this diverse landscape which thrives in our rugged Ozark hills. For more information about the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area go to [www.mdc.mo.gov/a8208](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/a8208).

— John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager